(e) whether Government consider to conduct a detailed study into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Encroachment of forest land in Maharashtra

1087. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI SANJAY RAJARAM RAUT:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether forest land in Maharashtra has been encroached on a large scale;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(c) the action being taken by Government to remove the encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) According to the information received from the State Government of Maharashtra, as on 11-09-2003, about 79,641 hectares of forest land is under encroachment in the State. District-wise details of encroachment are maintained by the respective State/UT Governments.

(c) The responsibility of eviction of encroachments from forest land lies with the State/UT Government. However, the Central Government, while issuing policy guidelines on regularisation of encroachments on 18-09-1990, asked all the State/UT Governments to take immediate action to evict all ineligible encroachments from forest land. The Central Government, vide letters dated 03-05-2002, 30-10-2002 and 03-02-2004, again reiterated these guidelines and asked the State/UT Governments to carry out the eviction operation in a time bound manner. As a follow-up of the directions of the Central Government, the State Government have cleared an area of about 13,557 hectares of forest land from the encroachers.